tain sections of the media about the spread of HIV infection among teenagers in Tamil Nadu".

(b) The Government of India has launched a centrally sponsored scheme, with assistance from the World Bank and W.H.O. for the prevention and control of a AIDS in the country. The accent is on prevention as AIDS has no cure as of now. The programme components consist of strengthening management, increasing the level of awareness in community and individuals, increasing safety of blood and blood products, augmenting STD Control Programme and improving clinical management and surveillance. A scheme for creating awareness about AIDS amongst University students has been drawn by the Department of Youth Affairs.

**Alarming AIDS cases in rural belt of Western Maharashtra**

1429. DR. BAPU KALDATE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the rural belt of Western Maharashtra is virtually sitting on a AIDS bomb with over 75 per cent of the last series of tests showing HIV positive;

(b) whether it is a fact that certain projects taken up by Government of Maharashtra are jointly funded by the State Government and the ICMR;

(c) if so, what are their respective obligations in respect of the joint projects; and

(d) what is the nature and quantum of central assistance given proposed to be given to the State Government of Maharashtra to meet alarming AIDS situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) The Govt. is aware of increasing trends of HIV infection in Western Maharashtra. However, no specific survey was conducted in that area. Therefore, it would not be correct to say that over 75% HIV positive infected persons are from Western Maharashtra.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Govt. of Maharashtra and ICMR have taken up rehabilitation project at Sangli district for HIV positive commercial sex workers. For the said project, ICMR has given one time grant of Rs. 5.64 lakhs towards addition and alteration in the existing building for rehabilitation purposes. ICMR has also promised to provide financial assistance @ Rs. 1,500/- per month per head limited to 25 commercial sex workers only under this project. Commitment on the part of State Govt. is under consideration.

(d) Govt. of India will provide grant for the prevention and control of AIDS activities in the State at 100% reimbursement basis. A sanction of Rs. 90.665 lakhs for various activities for the year 1992-93 has already been conveyed. In addition, the Govt. of India is also providing assistance in the form of equipments and HIV Kits.

**Sale of Irradiated Food Items in the Country**

1430. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have frawed rules to enable sale of irradiated food items in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have published draft rules on food irradiation for inviting public comments.

The draft rules provide details with respect to lists of items to be irradiated, process of irradiation, licensing and labelling of irradiated food.

**Guidelines by the Councils in opening of new Colleges**

1431. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are any guidelines prescribed by the concerned councils in

opening of new colleges in view of the ordinance issued in regard to opening of medical and dental colleges; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) and (b) There is a Scheme presently under formulation, as provided in the Ordinances, which would contain certain guidelines for persons/Societies intending to set up medical/dental colleges.

**Oral contraceptives IUDS causing adverse effect on the Family Planning Programme**

1432. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that oral contraceptives and IUDS have adversely affected the Family Planning Programme; and

(b) if so, what is the achievement in Family Planning during the last five years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) As a result of the various steps taken under the National Family Welfare Programme, the birth rate has been brought down from 32.6 in 1986 to 30.2 per thousand during 1990.

**Deaths of patients in Safdarjung Hospital**

1433. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to a press report published in "The Hindu" dated the 23rd September, 1992 to the effect that eight patients admitted in the family surgical wards in Safdarjung Hospital had serious reaction following the administration of out-dated drugs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the mathods to monitor and examine the stores of the hospital so that spurious or out-dated drugs are not stocked ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Eight patients admitted in the female surgical ward of Safdarjung Hospital developed some adverse reactions. However, this was controlled by timely medical attention and seven patients were discharged after recovery. One patient expired due to intestinal obstruction and not due to administration of IV Fluids.

(c) The methods of monitoring includes the testing of the drugs/medicines by the Government approved agencies, maintenance of bin-cards and inspection of the stores by the Hospital authorities.

**Deaths due to Cholera in and around Bhopal (M.P.)**

1434. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that there was cholera epidemic in and around Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh during August, 1992 resulting in a number of deaths particularly of children;

(b) if so, whether Government have conducted any inquiry into the causes of the epidemic and lapses on the part of authorities;

(c) if so, what are the details of the results thereof; and

(d) what action Government have taken or steps recommended to the State Government to prevent the recurrence of such epidemics in Bhopal and adjoining areas in Madhya Pradesh ?